

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

EXAMINER

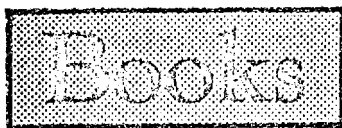
E - 204,749

EXAMINER & CHRONICLE

S - 640,004

SEP 24 1972

PAGE 3B



The Politics Of Heroin Exposed

Reviewed by
Thomas Lask

THE POLITICS OF HEROIN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. By Alfred W. McCoy, with Cathleen B. Reed and Leonard P. Adams II. Harper & Row; 464 pp.; \$10.95.

ALTHOUGH "The Politics of Southeast Asia" is packed with information, some of it of considerable complexity, its charges (for that is what its conclusions are) are simple enough to be spelled out in a school primer.

Seventy per cent of the world's supply of heroin, the book asserts, has its origin in Southeast Asia in an area of northeast Burma, North Laos and North Thailand known as the "Golden Triangle."

It is transported in the planes, vehicles and other conveyances supplied by the United States. The profit from the trade has been going into the pockets of some of our best friends in Southeast Asia.

The charge concludes with the statement that the traffic is being carried on with the indifference if not the closed-eye compliance of some American officials and there is no likelihood of its being shut down in the foreseeable future.

Quick Controversy

These conclusions have been drawn by a

*'We have to continue to fight
the evil of Communism and to
fight... you must have money.'*

*In these mountains the only
money is opium'*

-A Taiwan general

young Ph.D. scholar from Yale who studied the subject for 18 months and who has already been embroiled with the Central Intelligence Agency over them.

Before publication, his book was attacked by the CIA for what it said were unjust accusations that the agency knew of but failed to stem that heroin traffic. After reading the galleys (which the publisher had made available) and sending off a critique to Harper's, the CIA took no further action.

It is difficult for anyone not close to the field to assess the accuracy of McCoy's material. But it must be said that his book is a serious, sober, headline-shunning study with 63 pages of supporting notes, referring to a large number of personal interviews, newspaper accounts, previously published books, Congressional committee hearings, government reports and United Nations documents. It is so filled with information that it will take a great deal more than mere dislike of its contents to demolish it.

Official Acknowledgement

Perhaps the greatest guarantee of its accuracy is a cabinet-level report prepared by officials of the CIA, the State Department and the Defense Department that confirms the main findings of the McCoy book. The report, dated Feb. 21, 1972, said that "there is no prospect" of stemming the smuggling of drugs by air and sea in Southeast Asia and cited as one reason the fact that "the governments in the region are unable, or in some cases unwilling" to make a truly effective effort to curb the traffic.

That drug smuggling is not a problem remote from us can be seen from the fact that a shipment of the Double U-O Globe brand, a bulk heroin manufactured in the Golden Triangle, was seized in an amount estimated by the police to be worth \$3.5 million in the Lexington hotel in New York City last November and another shipment worth by police estimates to be \$2.25 million was taken in Miami.

The politics of heroin — and in this book the emphasis is on the politics — is an artful one. McCoy cites the case of Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother of President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, later murdered by his colleagues.

During his brother's regime, Nhu was head of the secret police and had set up a close

P-Lask, Thomas
McCoy, Alfred
Sec. 4.01.2 Polit. of Heroin in SE Asia

CIA 4.01 Drug Traff.

CIA 4-Laos

Origunda

Lask